

CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION

A Legislator's Handbook 2007 presents information of value to new legislators and veteran legislators as they prepare for and participate in the regular session of the 60th Legislature.

The handbook provides general information to create a foundation for understanding how the Montana Legislature works. It is not a comprehensive digest of statutes, rules, or other applicable provisions. Exceptions to general requirements and provisions that are not often implemented are not generally noted. Legislators are advised to consult the actual laws and rules to determine specific requirements. This is easily done using the indexes that are published with the Montana Code Annotated (MCA) and the *Rules of the Montana Legislature*.

Much of the information presented in this handbook is based on the rules that were adopted for the 59th Legislature. The rules for the 60th Legislature may be different from these rules. Legislators are advised to review the resolutions containing the rules for the 60th Legislature. Proposed revisions in the introduced resolutions are indicated by stricken and underlined text; consequently, changes to the rules are easily identified.

This handbook literally represents the "tip of the iceberg" with respect to informational resources that are available to legislators. Appendix A presents general resources as well as supplemental resources for various chapters of the handbook.

Some of the terms, acronyms, and abbreviations used in this handbook may be unfamiliar to the reader. Appendix B contains a glossary of commonly used terms, and Appendix C contains a guide to acronyms and abbreviations.